

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 - 10:00 A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM, #203**

The Franklin County Commissioners met in regular meeting on September 20, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners/Council Meeting Room. Commissioners present: Gerald Wendel, Tom Wilson and Karla Bauman, Auditor, present. Commissioner Tom Linkel was absent.

**OPEN:** The meeting was called to order and the pledge of allegiance was led by Gerald Wendel.

**911 CONSULTING – Barry Ritter:** Barry Ritter with Ritter Strategic Services, LLC sent a revised contract for commissioners to consider. No action was taken at this time as the contract needs to go before council for funding. Commissioners also discussed the purchasing of the administrative building that the town is currently leasing from the school. The school has received the County's letter of interest in the building but would like to receive a written offer of purchase. **Tom Linkel a motioned to make an offer for the purchase of the building from the school corporation in the sum of \$75,000, seconded by Gerald Wendel, motion carried.**

**Public Transportation Update – Missy Ratz:** Tabled until next meeting.

**Bridge 174 Contract River Road over Gobbler's Creek:** Motion to sign the contract with USI Consultants for Bridge 174 River Road over Gobbler's Creek by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Guardrail Installation:** Guardrail on Old U.S. 52 & Sanes Creek Road need to be replaced due to accident damage. **Tom Wilson made a motion to sign the C. Tech Corporation quote in the sum of \$72,146.00 for guardrail and structure replacement, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.** Jackie Wilhelm asked Commissioners for a timeframe on when Old State Road 1 would be asphalted. Commissioners stated probably not until next year and that they would be applying for a Community Crossings Grant.

**Emergency Vehicles & Bridge Weight Limits:** Commissioners discussed emergency vehicles crossing bridges during an emergency that might exceed the weight limit posted. They also discussed utility trucks that service areas during an emergency. **Tom Linkel made a motion to allow emergency vehicles to cross bridges where the vehicles exceed the maximum weight limit for bridge, only in response to emergency situations. If such an event occurs, the agency crossing the bridge must report the date, time and reason to the County Highway Department, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Grant Extensions – Amy Lindsey:** Amy Lindsey presented an update to commissioners on the open grants she has received. Five of the grants we are still waiting on reimbursement. Four of them are shown to be in the process of filing the necessary reports to get those reimbursed. Commissioners would like Amy to make quarterly financial reports.

**WTH Electronic Map Data Agreement with Mapping Solutions:** Commissioners received a request from Jeff Rhodes with Mapping Solutions for access to the County's GIS data. The purpose of the request was for reference use in the development of a County Plat Book. **Tom Linkel made a motion to accept and**

sign the WTH Electronic Map Data Agreement with a one-time payment to the County in the sum of \$250.00, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**COVID-19 Sick Hours:** Tom Wilson made a motion to end the Covid-19 policy granting employees sick leave during the pandemic. Any employee who has not used any hours for Covid-19 leave under the policy shall be granted 40 additional hours to their allotted sick time. They will be allowed to carry over the maximum numbers of sick hours until December 31, 2023. After that time, the total number of sick hours may not exceed the maximum number of hours allowed under the personnel handbooks. Tom Linkel seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**ARPA Project 6 – Courthouse & Annex painting:** Tom Linkel made a motion to approve the amount of \$70,000 to paint the Courthouse and Annex building, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.

**Farm Zoning Amendment – Tom Linkel:** Commissioner Linkel discussed the farm zoning permit requirements. Farms are required to get an improvement review permit only for \$20.00 and \$30.00 for Farm Certification. No further action.

**Fairgrounds:** Commissioners are looking for recommendations for a business that can complete an overall site review for the Franklin County Fairgrounds due to the upcoming and future projects. The site review needs to be done now and should include sewage, water and stormwater plans. Commissioners asked if this is something that USI Consultants could, however, he stated this is not something they do but he will make some contacts and get some recommendations for the commissioners to consider.

**Oldenburg Garage Lease Renewal:** The lease for the county garage in Oldenburg which is owned by Holy Family Church is due to expire at the end of this year. There are no changes to the terms for 2023. The annual lease is \$3,600.00. Tom Wilson motioned to sign the lease agreement upon Attorney Reeve's approval, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Capital Assets:** Tom Wilson made a motion to transfer the 1997 Ford F150 truck to the park and the 2013 Ford Expedition to the Health Department instead of transferring to the Highway Department, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Equal Opportunity Employment – Resolution 2022-26:** Attorney Reeves discussed this proposed resolution for equal opportunity employment in Franklin County. The policy is necessary for a grant that Prosecutor Chris Huerkamp is applying for. Motion to sign Resolution 2022-26 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Clerk Monthly Report:** Motion to acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's August Monthly Report by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2022:** Motion to approve the September 6<sup>th</sup> minutes by Gerald Wendel, seconded by Tom Linkel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Claims:** Motion to approve claims in the amount of \$443,378.06; Utilities, Surplus Tax, Ditch & Insurance in the amount of \$135,658.16; Park Sales Tax - \$776.19; Advanced Draw to School - \$73,660.72; NSF - \$1,556.23 and LIT Distribution in the sum of \$703,694.17 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.

**Payroll & Payroll Deductions: Motion to approve the payroll and payroll deductions in the sum of \$192,550.41 by Tom Linkel, seconded by Tom Wilson, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Town of Laurel:** The Town of Laurel was awarded a 1.7 million dollar grant to be used for water meters, tower and sewer system. Pete Connolly with the Town of Laurel came before commissioners to request a loan from the county in the sum of \$200,000.00 to be paid back upon receiving the grant (100% -no match required) in July 2023. The money would be used for start-up costs that will need to be spent prior to receiving the actual grant funds. Commissioners asked John Palmer if ARPA funds could be utilized to help cover the money the Town of Laurel was requesting to borrow. John Palmer would do more research but he believes ARPA funds can be loaned to other entities.

**Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Tom Wilson, seconded by Gerald Wendel, all in favor, motion carried.**

**Others in attendance and/or zoom:** Fayette Hay and Cyrstal McQueen, Commissioner's Secretaries, Bridget Hayes, Pete Connolly, Rob Bellucci, Pete Cates, Marty Hacker, Randy Powell, John Palmer Amy Lindsey. By Zoom: John Heis, Connie Rosenberger, JWFCs, Sara Duffy, Nanette Beres, Curt Cox, Galaxy SZ!, Traci Robinson and Protect A1

Minutes approved October 4, 2022

Ayes:

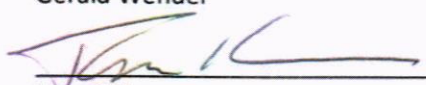
Nays:

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Tom Linkel

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Tom Linkel

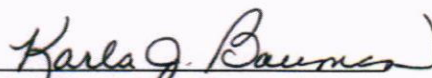
  
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Gerald Wendel

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Gerald Wendel

  
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Tom Wilson

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Tom Wilson

ATTESTED BY:

  
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Karla J. Bauman, Auditor